

The library community plays a critical role in working with the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) to provide the public free, open and permanent public access to the documents of our democracy. Public Printer Bob Tapella recently had the opportunity to visit a number of Federal depository libraries around the country. These visits have enabled Mr. Tapella to see the different types, sizes and kinds of libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). He learned firsthand about the different issues each library is facing today, including the struggle with funding in these tough economic times.

Throughout his visits to the diverse libraries in the FDLP, Mr. Tapella saw many unique collections, which included:

- A replica of Sherlock Holmes' study;
- A complete and absolutely gorgeous collection of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, including an original Title 1;
- A cuneiform from the Bronze Age;
- A whole room dedicated to calligraphy; and
- Some incredible, hand-bound, artist books.

`{besps}libraryvisits{/besps}      {besps_c}0|tapella-brooklyn.png|Brooklyn Public Library (Central Library)|Danny Luce, Depository Coordinator.{/besps_c} {besps_c}0|tapella-indiana.png|Indiana State Library|Front Row: Katharine Spring, State Data Center Coordinator, Roberta Brooker, State Librarian, Liz Schoettle, Associate Director of Public Services, Back Row: Elizabeth O' Donnell, Depository Coordinator, Doug Conrads, Catalog Librarian, Michele Fenton, Catalog Librarian.{/besps_c} {besps_c}0|tapella-indianapolis.png|Indianapolis Marion County Public Library (Central Library)|Chris Brookins, Depository Coordinator and Robin Kelley, Supervising Librarian.{/besps_c} {besps_c}0|tapella-louisiana.png|Law Library of Louisiana|Georgia Chadwick, Director and Miriam Childs, Head of Technical Services, Government Documents.{/besps_c} {besps_c}0|tapella-mn.png|University of Minnesota TC Wilson Library (Regional Depository)|Kirsten Clark, Depository Coordinator (Government Information and Regional Depository Librarian).{/besps_c} {besps_c}0|tapella-philly.png|Free Library of Philadelphia|Kathy Hale, Regional Depository Coordinator for Pennsylvania, Donald Root, Chief of the Central Public Services Division, and Lynn Williamson, Depository Coordinator.{/besps_c}`

{besps\_c}0|tapella-tulane.png|Howard Tilton Library at Tulane University  
(currently in recovery of documents damaged by Hurricane Katrina)|Eric M. Wedig, Depository  
Coordinator Chief Bibliographer for Social Sciences and Government Publications, Lance  
Query, Dean of Libraries and Ana Lopez, Associate Provost.{/besps\_c}